

# CHINA MAIL

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Wednesday, October 24th, 1945.

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## VEILED THREAT BY INDONESIANS

BATAVIA, OCT. 23. THE UNRECOGNISED SOEK ARNO "GOVERNMENT" YESTERDAY INFORMED LT.-GEN. SIR PHILIP CHRISTIE-SOON THAT IT CANNOT GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF 250,000 DUTCH AND EURASIANS IN INDONESIA AND ASSERTED THAT ENDLESS BLOODSHED WOULD RESULT IF MORE DUTCH TROOPS LAND. DR. SOEKARNO IN A LETTER ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY AIMS AND PROTESTED AGAINST BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL POLITICS BY "SUPPORTING AND BUTTERING THE DUTCH AGAINST US."

Batavia, Oct. 23. A British spokesman of the Allied Headquarters said that eleven Dutch officers were killed by a mob in the mountains between Batavia and Bandung while nine Dutch nationals were killed by Indonesian extremists after being removed from Bulentzorg prison camp. Associated Press.

GANGS ACTIVE Reports from areas in Java outside British-controlled cities indicate that Europeans and Eurasians continue to be rounded up by gangs, said a 23rd British Divulor spokesman, quoted by the Netherlands News Agency to-night. Dr. Soekarno has arrived in Batavia. He stated that he had been touring the country, and believed that he had succeeded in

## EMPEROR WORSHIP

TOKYO, OCT. 23. THE EMPEROR SYSTEM BECAME AN ACTIVE FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL ISSUE TO-DAY WHEN TWO FLEDGLING PARTIES DEMANDED ITS RETENTION AS PLANKS IN THEIR PLATFORMS.

The preparatory committee of a party seeking reform of old-time political party elements listed two planks: unqualified defence of the emperor system and a determined fight against both communism and liberalism.

The "Liberal party" vowed to uphold and defend Japan's structure, including the Emperor institution.—Associated Press.

OH YEAH!

Prince Fumimaro Konoe, in a statement to-day, said: "Emperor Hirohito has appointed us to secure stronger Parliament, capable of being a guiding influence in Japan's political affairs."

The Prince said that the increased power of the Diet will be a safeguard against the "future misuse of the Constitution."—Associated Press.

## Daladier Dizzy

Paris, Oct. 23. Herewith the record of the last twenty-four hours in the electoral life of Edouard Daladier. The sixty-one year-old Radical leader and Prime Minister of France at the time of Munich and the outbreak of war was declared defeated late last night.

It was later officially stated, however, that he had been elected.

A further official statement later said that this was a mistake but an official announcement shortly afternoon to-day declared that he had been elected.

It was officially stated to-night, again, that he had been defeated.

There the matters remain for the moment.

Daladier had a stormy electoral campaign in his home department of Vaucluse where there was much throwing of tomatoes and rotten eggs.—Reuter.

## PHILIPPINE FUNDS FREED

Washington, Oct. 23. A bill freezing U.S.\$71,000,000 in Philippines funds frozen in the United States was approved unanimously to-day by the House ways and means committee. The measure, already approved by the Senate, is expected to come before the House in a few days. Resident Commissioner Carlos Romulo said the Philippines need of the funds is "most urgent."—Associated Press.

Washington, Oct. 23. President Truman has named Mr. Arthur T. Harlan to be United States Minister to New Zealand.—Associated Press.

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## ASIA THE KEY IN WORLD PLAN

PARIS, OCT. 23. MR. BIRLA, THE INDIAN EMPLOYERS' DELEGATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE TO-DAY CALLED UPON THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FORTY-FIVE MEMBER STATES OF THE I.L.O. TO RECOGNISE "THAT THE FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLE OF ASIATIC COUNTRIES IS THE FOUNDATION OF FUTURE PLANNING OF THE WORLD AS THIS ALONE IS THE SOLID STRUCTURE OF WORLD PEACE AND PROSPERITY CAN BE BUILT."

"We must choose," he said, "a peaceful world which will bestow not only political peace, but economic peace on all."

Whilst recognising the gravity of the situation facing Europe Mr. Birla stressed the need of giving greater attention than was being given to the complex problem of the Asiatic countries where the after-effects of the war had not been less serious.

China, Burma and Malaya had undergone the ravages of war to such an extent that their already encumbered economy had been simply shattered.

In India too the strain of war on her economy had been considerable, as had been amply proved by the Bengal famine.

Mr. Birla said: "India wants to improve her standard of living. This is essential for equality and poverty will always remain a danger to peace and prosperity." He saw, however, no hope of a bright future for India and for the raising of living of her people till question of her foreign assets was satisfactorily solved and capital goods were made available for her industrialisation.

**BLOCKED ASSETS** Mr. Birla protested against the blocking by Britain of one thousand million Sterling of India's assets accumulated during the war. The Empire dollar pool should be dissolved, he said. Foreign exchange that had accrued to India should be allocated to India.

"If these assets were realised India would be able to purchase more freely in the world markets and thus contribute appreciably towards the expansion of world trade and prosperity."

Comparing the pace of industrialisation in Canada and Australia with India, Mr. Birla said, "India's vast potential resources have remained untapped."

Reuter.

## Finance Expert's Hint To U.S.

NEW YORK, OCT. 23. THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCE OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, IN A BULLETIN ENTITLED THE POUND STERLING AND THE STERLING AREA AFTER WORLD WAR NO. 2 STATES THAT IF NO ADEQUATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS GRANTED TO BRITAIN, SHE WILL BE COMPELLED TO ADOPT THE BEST SUITED MEASURE FOR HER OWN NEEDS.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT MEASURES WOULD BE: ONE, REFUSAL TO RATIFY THE BRETON-WOODS AGREEMENTS; TWO, DEVALUATION OF THE POUND STERLING; THREE, CONTINUING AND EVEN WIDENING THE STERLING AREAS, AND RAISING WALLS AROUND IT BY ENACTING MORE RIGID FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESTRICTIONS.**

It is generally believed that if adequate financial assistance is granted by the United States during the next two to three years, Britain will be gradually extricated from her difficult post-war position and adopt the principles embodied in the Bretton-Woods Agreement.

Discussing the future international value of the Pound, the bulletin states: "The Pound Sterling is the key currency of the Sterling area and hence its international value is of considerable importance as it determines the gold or dollar value of currencies of the sterling blocking countries.

The pound will exercise a very strong influence on the currencies of some western European countries and of other countries which have recently concluded financial agreements with Britain.

Changes in international values of the Pound Sterling always reflected in the movement of the Canadian Dollar.

**EAR-REACHING EFFECT.** Action by the British Government concerning the international value of the Pound is

likely to have a far-reaching effect on the foreign trade of the United States and, ultimately, on the value of the United States Dollar in terms of gold.

He points out that one of the principal aims of the British Government was to prevent an inflationary spiral and to maintain the purchasing power of the Pound at about the present level, adding that the exchange rate of the Pound in terms of Dollars in the long run will depend on the competitive position of the United States and Britain, which in turn will be determined by several factors of which the most important is the price level.—Reuter.

## Hong Kong Escaped By Few Days

WASHINGTON, OCT. 23. LT.-GEN. ALBERT C. WEDDEMEYER TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE TO-DAY THAT JAPAN SURRENDERED JUST IN TIME TO HEAD OFF A CHINESE OFFENSIVE DRIVING TO THE COAST TO LIBERATE CANTON AND HONG KONG.

He said the jump-off was set for August 18.

He hoped to take these objectives by October 15, he said.

The military force included 20 divisions of American-trained Chinese-commanded troops, supported by the 10th and 14th air forces and United States navy air elements.

Wedde Meyer said he had found Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek friendly and cooperative.

"I think he is straightforward and sincere in his desire to help his people," the general said.

He said the Generalissimo and Madame Chiang are planning a trip to the United States.

He said he didn't blame Major-General Chennault for not liking to be superseded in command when Lieutenant-General Stratemeyer arrived in the China theater as commander.—Associated Press.

## Protest To Russia

London, Oct. 23. A Foreign Office spokesman detailed the British and the United States protest to Russia against the Soviet's proposed trade pacts with Rumania and Bulgaria, as well as Hungary.

The basis of the protest, according to the spokesman, was that it was improper for one member of the Allied Control Commission to negotiate pacts with the enemy even before the peace treaties were worked out.

It is understood that the Bulgarian and Rumanian pacts were less drastic than that of Hungary which would give Russia fifty per cent control of vital parts of Hungarian economy.—Associated Press.

**U.S. ATTITUDE**

Washington, Oct. 23. The United States State Department announced that the United States has made it clear to Russia and Britain that all former Axis states are the concern and responsibility of the Big Three and that the conclusion of any long term economic agreement should be considered by the Big Three.—Reuter.

**LINER SAILS**

The giant Dutch liner "New Amsterdam" is sailing for the Netherlands Indies to-morrow with a large number of Dutch troops on board.—Associated Press.

**U.S. NAVY HEAD WANTS NO MERGER**

WASHINGTON, OCT. 23. THE NAVY SECRETARY, MR. JAMES FORRESTAL, TOLD THE SENATE MILITARY COMMITTEE THAT THE PROPOSED MERGER OF THE WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS IS REVOLUTIONARY AND UNSOUND.

**THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY OFFERED AS A SUBSTITUTE THE POST-WAR PLAN OF THE ARMED FORCES, CALLING FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS AND THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.**

The President would preside over the Council which would comprise the Secretaries of State for War, the Navy and the Chairman of the proposed National Security Resources Board.

The backers of the merger count on President Truman throwing his weight behind the

idea.

Mr. Forrestal said that he favoured a unified leadership but argued that a merger would concentrate too much on one Secretary. He said that under such plan the Navy would not have been able to wage its effective Pacific campaign.—Associated Press.

**SINGAPORE STRIKE**

SINGAPORE, OCT. 23. BRITISH TROOPS AND JAPANESE PRISONERS WORKED ON SINGAPORE'S WHARVES DURING MONDAY UNLOADING SHIPS AS THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE DOCK WORKERS CONTINUED THEIR UNAUTHORIZED STRIKE.

Representatives of 72 Singapore Labour Unions held a meeting in which they presented a series of demands to the British Military Administration, including the release of ten Union members who

were arrested by the police and an apology from the policeman who allegedly maltreated the

Union President.—Associated Press.

**SHANGHAI, OCT. 23.**

The arrival in Nanking from

Tainan of Mr. Luce, publisher

of *Time* magazine, is re-

ported to-day. He had an in-

terview with General Ho Ying-

ching.—Associated Press.

Shanghai, Oct. 23.

Some fifty Australian brides of

American servicemen have returned

from the United States, some

saying that they were home-sick

and others disappointed because

America was not like what was

represented in the movies and in

the magazines.

A few said that America was

likeable but that the people were

deadly selfish.—Associated Press.

## ARMY RELEASES

London, Oct. 23.

Military release dates for

other ranks announced by the

War Office are as follows:

Group 21, November 12-21;

Group 22, Nov. 28-December 6;

Group 23, Dec. 7-20; Group 24,

Dec. 21 and a date to be an-

nounced later.

Officers in Group 21 will be

released between November 12

and early January.—Reuter.

## BRITISH NAVAL CASUALTIES

London, Oct. 23.

The First Lord of the Ad-

miralty, Mr. A. V. Alexander, has

announced that Britain's war-time

naval casualties totalled 65,649

men, of which 49,803 were killed

and 1,803 are missing.—Associated Press.

## NOTICE

During the temporary absence of our Permanent Director Mr. D. O. Russell, we have appointed Mr. E. MEYER to be a Director of our firm.

W.R. LOKLEY & CO.  
(CHINA) LTD.  
D. O. RUSSELL  
Permanent Director

WM. POWELL & CO. LTD.

Will anyone who has knowledge of the whereabouts of any Records, Stocks, Furniture Fixtures and Equipment belonging to the above, kindly communicate with

Perry Smith, Seth & Fleming,  
2nd floor, Windsor House,  
Telephone 20700  
Hongkong, 23rd October, 1945.

## NOTICE

The whereabouts are required of a well-known Painting "BOY AND TOP," the property of Mr. Ernest Humphreys, which has been removed from his flat.

Will any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of this Painting communicate with the undersigned.

WILKINSON & GRIST.

## IMMOBILISATION OF UNATTENDED MOTOR VEHICLES.

All drivers of motor vehicles are advised to immobilise their vehicles when leaving them unattended.

(Sd) C. H. SANSOM,  
Col.,  
C. A. (Police)

## THE NEW STANDARD COMPANY

Specialists in Termite (White Ant) Proofing and Control, Employing the latest methods for exterminating White Ants, have pleasure in announcing that they have opened offices at Exchange Building, 3rd floor, Rooms 322 and 323.

Telephones 22697 and 33520.

## BRITISH MILITARY ADMINISTRATION, HONGKONG

RE CUSTODIAN PROCLAMATION, 1945

## CLAIMS FOR CARGO REMAINING IN GODOWN

Bankers, merchants and others who have any interest in cargo or storage in premises now under my control may forward schedules (in duplicate) stating:—

1. Name of claimant, address and telephone number.
2. Situation of godown and name and address of owner or lessor.
3. Interest claimed (soil or part, Banker's lien, etc.)
4. Documents or title that can be produced, on a statement of the manner in which it is proposed to prove interest.
5. Godown Lot number: ex Steamer..... Marks and Nos.: Number and description of packages and contents: Any other information likely to assist in tracing the cargo.
6. Amounts received from Japanese Authorities on account of such cargo.

A separate schedule should be forwarded for "Godown" in (a) West Point & Kennedy, Town Area, (b) the rest of Hong Kong Island, (c) Holt's Wharf, (d) Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co's properties, (e) elsewhere.

It will be appreciated that with the small staff at my disposal inspection of godowns by the public to locate cargo cannot be allowed for the time being, but every endeavour will be made to locate cargo claimed, and at a later date I may be able to allocate supervisors to accompany claimants to make inspection.

R. A. WICKERSON,  
Acting Custodian of Property.  
Hong Kong,  
20th October, 1945.

THE CHINA MAIL  
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## RICE SUBSIDY

Official figures released yesterday reveal that Government's commendable effort to keep down the living costs of the mass of the Chinese population of this Colony involves a subsidy far in excess of that commonly believed. Exact totals are difficult to compute, but it is safe to say that the daily cost of supplying rice to the public at 20 cents a catty is in the neighbourhood of \$140,000 a day or \$4,000,000 a month. Even in these days of monetary astronomy that seems an enormous figure, for on the basis of a Chinese population of approximately half a million, it amounts to nothing less than a donation to every Chinese man, woman and child in the Colony of \$8 per head per month. How long it is possible to go on at this rate must be a matter very much in the minds of the Executive. It represents social service financing on a scale that obviously cannot be maintained indefinitely. Only the complex circumstances of the moment could possibly justify it. For that reason, we should feel happier about looking at the spectacle in a sort of dazed admiration if there were more assurance that Government's extreme generosity was not being seriously abused. Four million dollars a month in order that the poor may eat can be contemplated with relative equanimity. If, on the other hand, any appreciable proportion of that formidable total is being diverted into the pockets of black market operators, it is a matter demanding strictest investigation and speedy remedy. The evidence appears to be overwhelming. Good rice, for some reason or other, cannot be obtained from the official rice retailers. What they have to offer is uniformly of poor grade. The question therefore, revolves on a simple enough point, is the rice in the possession of Government's agents, all of the same poor quality? If it is, there is little more to be said. The good quality black market rice that sells freely at 80 cents a catty—against the law—is smuggled in to meet an understandable demand. Such an explanation, however, appears altogether too easy. Somewhere, there's a nigger in the woodpile, one that urgently wants digging out. Since, practically, it would be disastrous to call an end to the subsidy at this juncture, the more necessary it is to ensure that we get full value for it.

## Film Premieres

ALL NEW FILMS ARRIVING IN HONG KONG ARE TO HAVE THEIR PREMIERE AT THE CHINA FLEET CLUB THEATRE, BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE R.N. FILM CENTRE, IT WAS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY.

One of the most important, the technicolour production of "Henry V" with Laurence Olivier in the leading role, will be arriving in Hong Kong in a few days. This film has broken all London records and is still showing after 12 months.

It is intended to show films twice daily at the China Fleet Club Theatre from Sunday and there will be a change of programme twice a week.

Next week's attractions are "Hollywood Canteen" and "The Man from Music Mountain," starring Roy Rogers, "The Singing Cowboy."

The Fleet Club theatre is available for ships' concerts or entertainments on application to the Manager.

For unlawful possession of two sacks of cement, Cheung Min was fined \$100 or four weeks' simple imprisonment by Mr. C. Y. Kwan at the Summary Military Court yesterday.

Accused was seen by Lt. Col. Palmer, of the Royal Marines in Wanchai Gap carrying the cement from a house under construction.

Washington, Oct. 20. The War Department has disclosed that the two-million-ton mark has passed in the releasing of Army personnel. — Associated Press.

## The Banner Of Doom In Straits Of Malacca

It was late in November 1944 that the British Eastern Fleet, back again at its Ceylon base after those bleak few months of defiance from East Africa, was divided into two separate units, the more effectively to launch an all-out offensive against Japan and its co-prosperity sphere in South East Asia.

## REMARKABLE OFFICIAL STORY OF THE EXPLOITS OF THE EAST INDIES FLEET IN THE LAST YEAR OF THE WAR.

The sinking of the Tirpitz and Scharnhorst had so restored the balance of sea power in Europe that many major warships were now available for the Far East. There were some long standing injuries to soothe. Men of the Royal Navy had never forgotten the sinking of the Prince of Wales and Repulse or the capture of Singapore.

One of these units, to be known as the British Fleet, was under Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser.

It took its place alongside the great American Fleets, which were driving a steel wedge towards the heart of Japan itself, a thrust between the armoured belt of the enemy garrisoned islands. The other was commanded by Admiral Sir Arthur Power and was known as the British East Indies Fleet.

It assumed virtual control of the waters of the East Indies and the Indian Ocean, an area of roughly ten times the size of the North Sea.

Between these powerful forces, to which the R.A.F. added its considerable weight, the Japanese in the plundered lands of Malaya, Siam and the Netherlands Indies were caught as relentlessly as any nut caught between the crackers.

The deployment of the East Indies Fleet was varied in the extreme. At regular intervals a task force of battleships and other heavy units including aircraft carriers would roam the placid waters to the South of Sumatra and Java or to the west of the Kra Isthmus, thousands of miles from base, leaving a trail of destruction in the coastal area, among the port installations, the radar stations, the barracks, oil refineries and airfields. In January this year the heaviest attack was mounted against the important oil refinery at Palembang, and so to say, in passing, British fighter-bombers destroyed 65 enemy planes and damaged 26 more. But these were only the more spectacular episodes which by their size and daring and from the various famous ships involved, made the world's headlines. During the grim sullen campaign in Burma as the Army ground down Japanese opposition and finally lung back the enemy into the jungle to die of disease, the smaller ships of the Fleet had been constantly in action.

They fought a battle that was even unlike anything that had gone before in this fantastic Second World War. It was no uncommon sight for the warships to steam up rivers more than 20 miles from the sea to blast out Japanese gun emplacements which the Army could not reach satisfactorily. The stories are told of the destroyer that made fast to a tree while it lobbed shells into a fort a few hundred yards away; of two Indian sloops that fired 3,700 rounds without stopping into a green, impenetrable wall of foliage behind which a Japanese garrison was sheltering. The creeks were so narrow that the ships were unable to turn. They steamed full astern when they had

passed the Japanese gun emplacements which the Army could not reach satisfactorily. The stories are told of the destroyer that made fast to a tree while it lobbed shells into a fort a few hundred yards away;

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# Churchill 'Mischiefous' On Demobilisation

EX-PRIME MINISTER, MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, TODAY URGED BRITAIN'S LABOUR GOVERNMENT TO ACCELERATE THE DEMOBILISATION OF THE ARMED FORCES AND DECLARED: "THE TASK OF HOLDING GERMANY DOWN WILL NOT BE A HARD ONE. IT WILL BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO HOLD HER UP."

MR. CHURCHILL TOLD THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THAT THE OCCUPATION OF GERMANY AND THE LOW COUNTRIES SHOULD REQUIRE NO MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND TROOPS, WITH THE SAME NUMBER REQUIRED FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ZONE.

Mr. Churchill said that Government figures up to June 30, 1946, proposed a reduction to 1,156,000, but why should time be wasted in reaching that total. At December 31, there would still be 2,343,000 in the Army eight months after the war with Germany had ended far too many. By energetic methods the Government total should be reached at the end of March, not end of June.

He considered that Air Force personnel should be reduced to 400,000 and not 819,000, which was the present plan up to December 31.

He was astonished that the figure of 665,000 for the navy on December 31 had been accepted by the Government. He knew no reason why the Navy should exceed pre-war figures of 133,000 men and suggested a working figure of 150,000 should be taken.

#### BRITAIN'S NEEDS

With a million in the United Kingdom, the ration strength of the army, 400,000 for the Royal Air Force and 150,000 for the Navy, there was a total of 1,650,000 men, which he said should suffice for Britain's needs in the immediate future. He understood that there would be 3,842,000 men in the forces on December 31, which in his view meant 2,250,000 redundant and surplus and these should not be retained a moment longer than was necessary to bring them home or set them free if already home.

He contended that the target aimed at should be 1,500,000 and that it should be reached earlier.

Mr. Churchill said he would be ashamed to have been responsible for the earliest declarations of the

## U.S. STRIKE SITUATION

NEW YORK, OCT. 23. THE NATION'S STRIKE TO-TAL WAS CUT ALMOST IN HALF TODAY, IN SPITE OF THE NEW LOOMING IN TEN CITIES WHERE THERE WAS A WALK-OUT OF GLASS WORKERS.

Some 216,000 coal miners returned to the pits under the orders of their Chief, John Lewis, of the United Mine Workers Union.

The returns and new disputes have left the totally idle in labour disputes at 217,400, men which number is slated to drop another 16,000 during the week with the return of steel-workers laid off because of the coal shortage.

Others still idle include 61,700 Pacific Northwest Lumber Saw-mill workers, 2,700 bus drivers, 4,300 cotton and textile employees, 7,000 movie-men.

Thirty-thousand West-Coast longshoremen have set October 29 as the strike date in the event of their wage demands not being met. —Associated Press.

## ARGENTINE ELECTIONS

Buenos Aires, Oct. 22. The Argentine Government has expressed its willingness to advance the date of the elections previously set for April 7th, 1946.

The Minister of the Interior, Bartholomeo Descalzo, is reported to be calling in leaders of various political parties to discuss a new date and said that the Army, Navy and Air forces would "guarantee the elections by their presence at the voting places." —Associated Press.

#### AMERICAN DIVISION GOING HOME

Tokyo, Oct. 23. The American Division, the only infantry unit formed overseas, is departing for the United States next month, after service in Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Philippines and occupation in Japan.

Formed in New Caledonia, the division was originally from National Guard units. —Associated Press.

Tokyo, Oct. 23. The newspaper, "Asahi," has reported that five schools at Morioha, 322 miles north-east of Tokyo, have been suspended because of food shortage, with pupils, including primary graders, working to increase the foodstuff production. —Associated Press.

## U.S. Ship Under Fire

Shanghai, Oct. 22. The United States auxiliary ship "Seize" went into action with machine-guns along the Yangtze River early this morning after being heavily machine-gunned from the shore near Chinkiang, about thirty-five miles north-east of Nanking.

The "Seize" suffered neither casualties nor damage.

When notified of the incident by the American Authorities, General Tang En-po, Commander-in-chief of the Shanghai-Nanking zone, said that the area was full of Communists and promised to do his utmost to prevent a recurrence of the incident. —Reuter.

## Arsenal To Build Houses

London, Oct. 22. Woolwich Arsenal may become the greatest factory in Southern England for the manufacture of pre-fabricated housing parts if the plans of the newly-formed Committee of local interests are accepted by the Authorities.

The Mayor of Woolwich, Councillor Cherton, Chairman of the Committee, said: "We are putting forward proposals to get work for Woolwich Arsenal and to save discharges. We do not want it to become partly redundant, as it did after the last war. The Arsenal could play a vital part in the housing drive. Its engineering shops could manufacture all the parts for pre-fabricated houses which are so much needed to-day." —Reuter.

## FOOD CONFERENCE

Quebec, Oct. 23. The Conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation was warned yesterday that he was now preaching had been condemned bell, book, and candle by the men in Burma. Mr. Churchill replied that however, that might be, he was saying what was now in the interest of the State.

The Royal Air Force, he said, must be maintained on a very large scale, with about 4,000 machines in constant service.

MR. ISAAC'S REPLIES

Replying for the Government, Mr. George Isaacs, Minister of Labour, said that none of Mr. Churchill's suggestions was new to the Government. Mr. Isaacs considered Mr. Churchill's speech, "most irresponsible and mischievous."

"Whether it was to help them out of the services or to get them out of temper with the present Government, I do not know."

Mr. Isaacs added that any modification of the Bevin Scheme, which would not destroy its basic, would be operated. The Government would not keep anyone in the forces if it were possible to take them out. He begged that criticism should be based on a knowledge of the facts and not on surmise. —Reuter and Associated Press.

Mr. F. J. Gellion, manager of the Macao Electric Light Company is in San Francisco and is hoping to return very shortly to Macao.

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